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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,087	11/13/2003	Stephen Neusbul	60414P002D2X	9495
8791 7590 08/01/2007 BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			EXAMINER WEBB, CHRISTOPHER G	
			ART UNIT 2884	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/01/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/714,087

Applicant(s)

NEUSBUL, STEPHEN

Examiner

Christopher G. Webb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 13-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4, 5 and 13-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 6, 7 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see remarks, pages 5-8, filed 22 May 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 2-3, 6-7, and 17 under Wendlandt, Struye, and Ohta have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ohgoda (US 4,870,285, hereafter Ohgoda).

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohgoda.

With respect to claim 17, Ohgoda teaches an apparatus comprising a photostimulatable unit (fig. 1, element S); a housing to hold the unit (fig. 1, element 14); and a cover movably coupled to the housing (fig. 1, element 16) to move between a first position concealing the unit and a second position revealing the unit while it resides in the housing (col. 2, lines 41-54).

As to claim 6, Ohgoda teaches a release mechanism coupled to the housing to release the cover from the first position (col. 5, lines 1-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohgoda.

With respect to claim 3, Ohgoda does not disclose that the plate is a computed radiography plat. It would have been obvious at the time of invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a CR plate as the stimuable phosphor. CR technology is widely used and the use of a CR plate would be an obvious design choice.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohgoda as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Struye et al. (US 2004/0124368 A1, hereafter Struye).

Ohgoda does not teach that the CR plate has a concave surface. Struye teaches that a CR plate may have a concave surface (paragraph [0053]). It would have been obvious at the time of invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a concave surface as taught by Struye in combination with the CR plate of Ohgoda. The concave

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surface of the CR plate would be useful, for example, in a apparatus where pressure changes are accomplished by the blowing of air into the inner area of a cassette as taught by Struye.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: A photostimulatable panel in which a cover is movably coupled to the housing to move between a first position concealing the unit and a second position revealing the unit was not found or suggested by the prior art that also features a slideably mounted cover. As discussed in a phone interview with the Attorney for the Applicant, the combination of a slideably mounted cover as taught by Wendlandt (noted in previous actions) would not function with the unit and housing disclosed above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher G. Webb whose telephone number is (571) 272-8449. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5:30PM M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CGW



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